

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 MC-02 OES-05 IO-10

/077 W

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O 080715Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8752

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 1214

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IN

SUB: CURRENT REACTION REPORT FEB 7

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC, KARACHI

LAHORE, NEW DELHI, KABUL AND DACCA DATED FEB 07, 75

REPEATING FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD USIS

FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA STATE NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652 N/A

SUB: CURRENT REACTION FEB 7

BHUTTO VISIT: ALL MAJOR PAPERS DEVOTED MORE THAN HALF OF
THEIR FRONT PAGE TO BHUTTO PRESS CONFERENCE, STATE DINNER SPEECHES,
KISSINGER'S LUNCHEON AND OTHER BHUTTO ENGAGEMENTS IN WASHINGTON.
PIX USE WAS OUTSTANDING IN THE SUN WHICH CARRIED SEVEN PHOTOS
OF DINNER PLUS MEETINGS WITH FORD, KISSINGER, McNAMARA,
RECKEFELLER AND SPARKMAN, COVERING TOTAL SPACE OF ABOUT ONE FULL
PAGE. JANG AND MUSAWAAT EACH CARRIED FIVE PIX, HURRIYET SIX
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AND MASHRIQ FOUR ON FRONT PAGES.

ALL PAPERS EXCEPT DAWN LED WITH BHUTTO'S PRESSCON. DAWN LED WITH FORD'S DINNER SPEECH AND GAVE SECOND LEAD TO PRESSCON. OTHER PAPERS GAVE SECOND AND THIRD LEADS TO DINNER AND LUNCHEON REMARKS. BHUTTO'S MEETINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS, WASHINGTON POST AND NYT REPORTS AND BEGUM BHUTTO'S ENGAGEMENTS ALSO GOT FRONT OR BACKPAGE PLACEMENTS.

APP REPORTED PRESSCON LEADS STRESSED PM'S REMARK PAKISTAN'S INTEREST WAS "TO HAVE NOT ONLY ESSENTIALLY BUT EXCLUSIVELY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS FOR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE PURPOSES" AND HIS OBSERVATION "ACTIVE CONSIDERATION" TO HIM MEANT ARMS QUESTION WAS A "LIVE ISSUE."

NEWS ACCOUNT ALSO CARRIED BHUTTO COMMENT PRESIDENT FORD HAS NOT SAID "NO," BUT HE HAS NOT SAID CATEGORICALLY "YES," "BUT WE ARE DOING OUR BEST," BHUTTO ADDED.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF BHUTTO PRESSCON REPORTED HERE INCLUDED HIS REMARKS ABOUT MEETING WITH SENATORS, ARMS RACE, POSSIBLE INDIAN REACTION IF EMBARGO WAS LIFTED, DENIAL OF REPORTED OFFER FOR NAVAL BASE, FOOD AID FROM US, AND MIDEAST.

MAJOR HEADLINES:

NPT PAKISTAN TIMES: "NO ARMS RACE WITH NUCLEAR INDIA, SAYS BHUTTO - PAKISTAN SEEKS ONLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS"
INDEPENDENT DAWN: "WEAPONS ONLY FOR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS - EMBARGO IS CRUEL, SAYS BHUTTO"
INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT: "PAKISTAN NEEDS MISSILES, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS"

INDEPENDENT JANG: "AMERICA TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL 300,000 TONS WHEAT - PAKISTAN NEEDS WEAPONS FOR DEFENSE - HAS MADE NO OFFER OF MILITARY BASE - BHUTTO"

NPT PAKISTAN TIMES AND MORNING NEWS CORRESPONDENTS TRAVELING WITH BHUTTO SENT THEIR FIRST REPORTS ASSESSING SUCCESS OF VISIT.
PAKISTAN TIMES' H.K. BURKI NOTING BHUTTO MEETING WITH CONGRESSMEN AND EXCHANGES WITH FORD, KISSINGER WROTE:
QUOTE THERE ARE NOW STRONG INDICATIONS THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION UNCLASSIFIED

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IS SYMPATHETIC TO REMOVAL OF 10-YEAR OLD EMBARGO. HOWEVER, IT DARE NOT MAKE ANY FORMAL COMMITMENT UNTIL IT IS CERTAIN THAT PREDOMINANTLY DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS WILL NOT SHOOT DOWN ITS DECISION.. ALL IN ALL, MR. BHUTTO'S EXCHANGES WITH AMERICAN LEADERS HAVE GONE PRETTY WELL. IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT, MOST OUTSTANDING GAIN MAY WELL BE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND MUTUAL APPRECIATION OF PAKISTAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AS A HIGHLY COMPLEX AND CONSTANTLY EVOLVING

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION. THE MOOD, JUDGING BY THE ATMOSPHERE AND SPEECHES AT THE WHITE HOUSE LAST NIGHT, REFLECTS DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S DIFFICULTIES AND POLICY COMPULSIONS. UNQUOTE
MORNING NEWS CORRESPONDENT (EDITOR SULTAN AHMED) WROTE; QUOTE HAVING ACHIEVED NOTABLE SUCCESS IN HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER... PM BHUTTO IS WORKING HARD TO CONVINCE AS MANY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AS POSSIBLE... OF LEGITIMACY OF PAKISTAN'S STAND... THIS IS ESSENTIAL IN A COUNTRY IN WHICH CONGRESS IS ASSERTING ITS SUPREMACY OVER THE EXECUTIVE AND PROVING ITS MIGHT BECAUSE OF DOMINANCE OF DEMOCRATS IN BOTH HOUSES, AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED. AND HE IS ACHIEVING REMARKABLE RESULTS. UNQUOTE SEVERAL FRONTPAGED APP REPORTED WASHINGTON POST STORY FORD HAS "SET THE STAGE" FOR LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: INDIAN REACTION
INDEPENDENT DAWN AND NPT PAKISTAN TIMES EDITORIALLY CRITICIZED INDIA'S REACTION OVER PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO PURSUADE US TO LIFT EMBARGO. DAWN SAID QUOTE EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHAT ITS DEFENSE NEEDS ARE AND WHAT IS LEVEL OF ARMS WHICH CAN SATISFY ITS SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. INDIA APPARENTLY IS UNWILLING TO GRANT THIS BASIC SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO PAKISTAN...INDIA'S PERSISTENT OBJECTION TO PAKISTAN'S NATURAL DESIRE TO WORK FOR A CREDIBLE DEFENSE LENDS ITSELF TO ONLY ONE INTERPRETATION. INDIA KNOWS THAT A MILITARILY VULNERABLE PAKISTAN ALONE CAN FALL AN EASY PREY TO INDIAN HEGEMONISM... THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE SANITY RETURN TO THIS TROUBLED REGION OUGHT TO REALISE THAT A DURABLE STRUCTURE OF PEACE CAN BE RAISED IN SOUTH ASIA ONLY ON FIRM FOUNDATION OF EQUAL SECURITY FOR ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF REGION. UNQUOTE

PAKISTAN TIMES' EDIT "PERVERSE LOGIC" SAID QUOTE SINCE
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MR. BHUTTO'S DEPARTURE FOR AMERICA INDIAN OPPOSITION TO ANY RELAXATION OF ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST PAKISTAN HAS GAINED IN SOUND AND FURY. INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MRS. INDRA GANDHI LEADS THE WAY BY HER BELLICOSITY. HER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 MC-02 OES-05 IO-10

SAB-01 SAM-01 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8758

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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MR T.N. KAUL HAS BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN LEGISLATORS, OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN... ANY ATTEMPT BY PAKISTAN TO ACQUIRE ARMS FROM ANY COUNTRY IS DENOUNCED BY INDIA AS VIOLATION OF SIMLA AGREEMENT. PAKISTAN IS CONSTANTLY MALIGNED AS VILLAIN OF PIECE... INDIA HAS ALWAYS CLAIMED AS ITS PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHT TO PUT ANY INTERPRETATION ON ITS AGREEMENTS WITH THIS COUNTRY. THERE IS NOTHING IN SIMLA AGREEMENT TO DEBAR PAKISTAN FROM RIGHT OF DEFENSE, TO NULLIFY PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OR TO COMPROMISE PAKISTAN'S STAND ON KASHMIR . TO EXPECT PAKISTAN NOT TO REACT INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IS PERVERSE LOGIC..INDIA CONCEIVES THE SPIRIT OF SIMLA AGREEMENT IN HEGEMONIC TERMS AND WOULD NOT EVEN ENTER INTO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY UNTIL ALL ITS DEMANDS HAD BEEN MET. THAT ALL THE GIVE SHOULD BE ON PAKISTAN'S SIDE AND ALL THE TAKE ON THE OTHER, IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH ANY CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY AND MUTUAL GOODWILL, UNQUOTE.

TV AND RADIO COVERAGE: TV SATELLITED FILM ON FORD'S DINNER SHOWING FORD, BHUTTO SPEECHES, AS WELL AS CLIPS ON BHUTTO MEETINGS WITH SENATORS, KISSINGER AND OTHER LEADERS.

TV COMMENTATOR BRIEFLY REPORTED BHUTTO'S PRESSCON.

RADIO ALSO BROADCAST DINNER SPEECHES, GAVE ACCOUNT OF BHUTTO UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGAGEMENTS AND DEVOTED MAJOR PART OF FRIDAY MORNING NEWSCASTS TO BHUTTO PRESSCON. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA01214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0088
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750260/aaaacbsu.tel
Line Count: 221
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by RowellEO>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT REACTION REPORT FEB 7 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC, KARACHI
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IN, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006